

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	Jessica Andrade, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Marsha Mavunkel, Andrea Negrete, Mariah Ortiz, Marty Penner, Greg Ramirez, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi
<u>Commissioners by Phone:</u>	Jesse Aspuria, Michael Plengrat
<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	Merri Ann Osborne, Mica Powers
<u>SOCR Staff Present:</u>	Michael Chin, Felicia Yearwood
<u>Guest:</u>	T. Lydia Smoke, guest of Mica Powers
<u>Guest Speakers:</u>	Thomas Antkowiak, Seattle University Latin America Program Director and Assistant Professor of Law Scarlett Aldebot-Green, University of Washington Assistant Director, Center for Human Rights
<u>Call to Order:</u>	Damien Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
<u>Approval of Minutes:</u>	October 2011 minutes were approved as read
<u>SOCR report:</u>	Michael Chin

SOCR conducted a fair housing audit earlier this year. Paired testing found evidence discrimination in 70% of race based tests and 30% of disability based tests. SOCR filed six charges of discrimination based on the audit findings. SOCR received a \$39,000 budget for the tests, which cost \$600-700 per test. SOCR has settled two charges. The respondents will reimburse the cost of the tests, engage in training, post posters, and establish fair housing policies.

SOCR will conduct interviews for a new Civil Rights Analyst. Commissioner Michael Plengrat will serve on the interview panel (alternates Chris Stearns and Jennifer Yogi if Michael is unavailable).

Presentation by Guest Speakers:

Thomas Antkowiak, Seattle University and Scarlett Aldebot-Green, University of Washington advised the Commission to:

- Develop expertise in local application of human rights standards
- Confer with experts to analyze the effectiveness of human rights lenses used in other local jurisdictions
- Identify the most important issues and focus on those issues
- Consider focusing on a smaller issue such as a vendor code

Thomas and Scarlett welcome continued communication with the Commission

2012 Work Plan

Chris Stearns presented a draft 2012 work plan based on discussions at the retreat. The Commission voted to approve the work plan with minor adjustments and formatting.

Human Rights Day

Thursday December 8th 6:00 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. program. Theme: "Spotlight on Economic Inequality."

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.